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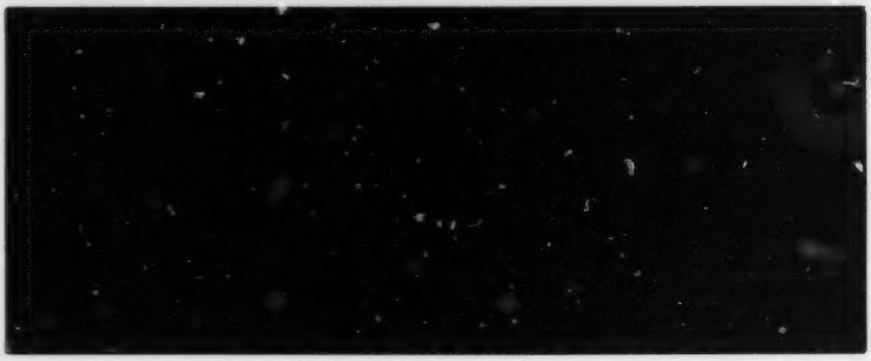

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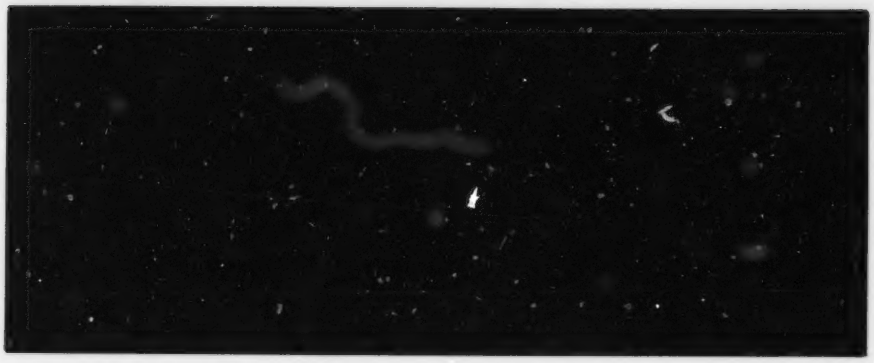

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Technical/Final Report
to
Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund

Hog Production in Saskatchewan

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HOG PRODUCTION IN SASKATCHEWAN

AUGUST 1986

PART I - RANDOM FARM SURVEY

1. Experience with Hog Production

Six hundred random interviews were conducted among farm households in Saskatchewan - one hundred in each of the six Agricultural Extension Districts. The respondent was "the head of the farming operation".

Seven percent of those surveyed were actively involved in hog production. An additional 31% indicated that they had been in hog production in the past. Thus, a total of 38% of the farmers surveyed had personal experience with the business of producing hogs.

Add to this, 14% who said either they themselves or their family had at least some experience with hog production, and we have over half (52%) with at least some familiarity with the hog industry.

2. The Non-Producers

2.1 Rationale for Getting Out

As mentioned earlier, 31% of the non-producers surveyed have been in hog production in the past - 4% within the past three years; 4% within the past five years; 5% within the past ten years. The balance (18%) have not been in hog production within the past ten years.

About half of these respondents were actually in hog production for more than six years, while half were producing hogs for six years or less.

Table 1, on the following page, examines the reasons these producers got out of the business.

Respondents were given a difficult multiple choice question with ten possible choices. They were asked to select their one major reason for getting out of hog production. Seventy-seven percent of these respondents were able to choose one major reason.

TABLE 1

MAJOR REASON FOR GETTING OUT OF HOG PRODUCTION

n = 185		wtd avg %
Hog prices were too unstable.	23	
Hog prices were too low.	22	45
It took too much work or tied me down.	17	
I don't like pigs.	4	21
Feed prices were too high.	2	
Feed prices were too unstable.	2	4
It was too hard to get good hired help.		3
A shortage of helpful information about hog production.	2	
I didn't know enough about hog production.	1	3
I couldn't get adequate financing.		2
cannot choose		21

* column may not total 100% due to rounding.

It is apparent from the data in Table 1 that hog prices, whether perceived as too low or too unstable, is the major reason for producers getting out of the business.

The third and fourth items are similar, and account for 21% of the respondents. These choices reflect a dislike for the business based more on life-style than economics.

Interestingly, the two items relating to knowledge about hog production rank well down the list, cited by only 3% of these former producers.

Obtaining adequate financing does not appear to be a major factor for causing producers to get out of the business, but as we will see in Part II - The Hog Producer Survey - it is an important factor keeping current producers from expanding their operations.

2.2 The Local Area

Non-producers were asked if they were aware of any successful hog operations in their area, and similarly if they were personally aware of any failed hog operations. As shown in Table 2, 39% of these non-producers are aware of a successful hog operation, while only 17% are aware of a failed operation. Similarly, while 10% are aware of someone in their area who is planning on getting into hog production, only 5% are aware of someone planning to get out.

TABLE 2

AWARE OF HOG OPERATIONS AND INTENTIONS ACCORDING TO REGION

n = 557	Overall %	ONE N.W. %	TWO N.E. %	THREE C.W. %	FOUR C.E. %	FIVE S.W. %	SIX S.E. %
aware of successful operation	39	41	40	45	46	27	33
aware of failed operation	17	23	10	18	21	11	24
aware of someone getting in	10	13	14	11	10	7	4
aware of someone getting out	5	5	2	3	10	2	6

2.3 Getting Into Hog Production

The non-producers were asked if they think hog production will be a viable business to be involed in, in the next ten years or so. Fourty-three percent respond positively, while 18% do not feel hog production will be a viable business. Thirty-nine percent of the non-producers cannot say one way or the other.

Generally, younger respondents hold a slightly more optimistic view of hog production in the next decade, than older farmers. The same is true of the more educated. Table 3 views these data on a regional basis.

TABLE 3

HOG PRODUCTION VIABLE BUSINESS IN NEXT 10 YEARS?
ACCORDING TO REGION

n = 557	Overall %	ONE N.W. %	TWO N.E. %	THREE C.W. %	FOUR C.E. %	FIVE S.W. %	SIX S.E. %
yes, viable	43	47	43	44	49	38	37
no, not viable	18	14	15	19	14	19	26
can't say	39	39	42	37	37	43	37

* columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

Note that the above average sentiment in District 6 that hog production will not be viable may be related to the above average numbers in that region who were personally aware of a failed operation (Table 2).

It also appears that farmers who are former hog producers are slightly more optimistic than others about the future for hogs. Former producers tend to say "yes - viable" at a rate of 49% compared to others at 40 percent.

Twenty-six percent of the non-producers surveyed say they do have facilities on the farm which could be used for hog production. This figure reaches 37% among former producers compared to only 21% among those who have never produced hogs.

Regionally, District 4 - the Central East appears to contain the greatest percentage (37%) with hog facilities available. The other five zones range from 28% in the North West to only 20% in the South East.

While former producers may be somewhat more likely to have facilities which could be used for hogs, they do not appear significantly more likely than others to get into hog production again. According to their own selection of likeliness, 79% of the former producers say it is somewhat unlikely. Slightly fewer than 10% indicate it is somewhat (7%) or very (3%) likely that they will return to hog production.

This is barely higher than those who have never been in hog production. Two percent of those say it is very likely and 6% say somewhat likely.

The major factor demographically appears to be age, with younger respondents more likely to see themselves getting into hog production. Table 4, on the following page, views these response data according to age and Extension District.

"In the next few years, how likely would you say it is that you would become involved in hog production? Would you say it is..."

TABLE 4

LIKELINESS OF GETTING INTO HOG PRODUCTION
ACCORDING TO AGE AND REGION

n = 557	<30 %	30-44 %	45-60 %	60+ %
very likely	4	2	2	3
somewhat likely	15	8	3	3
total	19	10	5	6

	ONE N.W. %	TWO N.E. %	THREE C.W. %	FOUR C.E. %	FIVE S.W. %	SIX S.E. %
very likely	6	2	3	0	1	1
somewhat likely	8	5	12	8	3	3
total	14	7	15	8	4	4

The data in Table 4 also suggest that there is a fair bit of interest in hog production in the Central West and North West regions. One suspects that the publicity surrounding the Gainers facility may have contributed to this interest.

2.4 Factors Keeping Farmers out of Hog Production

Non-producers surveyed were asked to rate ten factors in terms of the degree each might keep them from getting into hog production. A one-to-five scale was used.

Table 5 views the response data according to respondents' previously stated likeliness of becoming involved in hog production.

TABLE 5

RATINGS OF FACTORS KEEPING FARMERS OUT
ACCORDING TO LIKELINESS OF GETTING INTO HOGS

n = 557	OVERALL	VERY LIKELY	SOME LIKELY	SOME UNLIKELY	VERY UNLIKELY
- Hog prices are too unstable.	3.29	3.45	3.35	3.59	3.25
- It might take too much work or tie me down.	3.17	3.00	2.35	2.93	3.28
- I don't like pigs.	2.90	2.64	2.12	2.09	3.05
- Feed prices are too unstable.	2.82	3.30	2.85	3.11	2.77
- It is too hard to get good hired help.	2.68	2.64	2.47	2.60	2.70
- The present price of hogs.	2.63	2.90	2.76	3.00	2.57
- Obtaining adequate financing.	2.41	2.64	2.26	2.42	2.41
- My own lack of knowledge about hog production.	2.40	1.73	2.21	2.41	2.42
- The present price of feed.	2.38	2.50	2.42	2.67	2.33
- Available information about hog production.	1.87	2.00	1.76	1.82	1.87

From Table 5 we see that hog price instability and feed price instability rank first and second among those who indicated they were very likely or somewhat likely to get involved in hog production.

Recalling that there were only a small percentage (9%) of respondents who said they were likely to get into hog production, the differences between the 'very likely' group and the 'somewhat likely' group may be exagerated as a result of these small numbers.

In Table 6, these groups are collapsed to give a better view of the data. Table 6 examines responses from only those respondents who say it is at least somewhat likely they will get into hog production.

It also illustrates the percentage of "likely" producers who awarded a "5" to each factor.

TABLE 6

RATINGS OF FACTORS KEEPING FARMERS OUT OF HOGS
- LIKELY PRODUCERS ONLY -

n = 48	Rank	Mean Rating	% awarding 5
Hog prices are too unstable.	1	3.38	33
Feed prices are too unstable.	2	2.95	17
The present price of hogs.	3	2.79	19
It is too hard to get good hired help.	4	2.51	17
It might take too much work or tie me down.	5	2.50	19
Obtaining adequate financing.	6	2.36	19
The present price of feed.	7	2.30	4
I don't like pigs.	8	2.24	15
My own lack of knowledge about hog production.	9	2.09	2
Available information about hog production.	10	1.82	4

It is clear from the data in Table 6 that potential hog producers' major concern, as a group, is the instability of hog prices. One-third of this group of "likely producers" award that factor a "5", meaning it is "a very major factor keeping (them) out of hog production".

Of those 48 "likely producers" examined in Table 6 above, 19 (40%) gave a five to unstable or unsatisfactory hog or feed prices.

Altogether, there were 255 respondents who awarded a "5" to hog prices being too unstable or too low, or feed prices being too unstable or high. This represents 46% of all non-producers surveyed, or 43% of the total sample.

All of those 255 respondents were asked the following question, with response data shown in Table 7:

"If hog prices and feed prices were stabilized for a long term - say ten years, such that producers were able to make a reasonable return on heir investment, how likely would you be to go into hog production..."

TABLE 7

LIKELINESS OF GOING INTO HOG PRODUCTION IF HOG AND FEED PRICES WERE STABILIZED

n = 255	VERY LIKELY %	SOME LIKELY %	SOME UNLIKELY %	VERY UNLIKELY %	NOT SURE %
Overall	8 (21)	15 (37)	14 (36)	60 (154)	3 (7)
Likely producers	42 (8)	26 (5)	11 (2)	16 (3)	5 (1)
Former producers	14 (14)	12 (12)	11 (11)	60 (59)	2 (2)

* Rows sum horizontally and may not total 100% due to rounding. Bracketed figures represent actual numbers of respondents.

It appears, from the data in Table 7, that stable prices at reasonable levels would certainly have an impact in terms of encouraging hog production. This is particularly true of "likely producers" - who pointed to unsatisfactory or unstable hog or feed prices as a very major factor keeping them out.

The same responderts (255) were then given three barley prices, and asked what hog price they would need in order to achieve a reasonable return on investment. Table 8 illustrates these response data.

TABLE 8

HOG PRICE FOR REASONABLE RETURN ON INVESTMENT

n = 255	<55 %	55-65 %	66-75 %	75-85 %	86-95 %	>95 %	can't say %
barley @ $1.50	3	3	4	6	6	8	69
barley @ $2.00	0	2	1	5	8	12	72
barley @ $2.50	2	1	1	2	4	19	72

These questions are difficult to answer, of course, since they provide only one input cost. Thus, the high rate of respondents unable to answer is understandable. As we will see later, current producers have a considerably higher rate of response on this series of questions.

Referring back to Table 5 and 6, we saw that, "It is hard to get good hired help" received an average rating of 2.68 on the one-to-five scale of importance keeping farmers out of hog production. This item was awarded a "5" by 19% of the non-producers group, and 17% of the sub-group we have called "likely producers".

These 115 respondents were asked two follow-up questions regarding hired help. The first deals with training programs:

"Do you think that if training programs on hog production and management were vailable in your area, at a minimal cost, the supply of good hired help would increase significantly?"

TABLE 9

WOULD TRAINING PROGRAMS INCREASE SUPPLY OF HIRED HELP?

n = 115	Yes %	No %	Not sure %
Overall	38 (44)	42 (48)	20 (23)
Likely producers	25 (2)	50 (4)	25 (2)
Former producers	32 (14)	52 (23)	16 (7)

* rows sum horizontally and may not total 100% due to rounding.
Bracketed figures represent actual numbers of respondents.

As seen in Table 9, such training programs are not seen by all as a solution to the shortage of good hired help. Nonetheless, a sizeable percentage does see this as an effective way to increase the supply.

These same respondents were also asked whether a healthy supply of good hired help would make it likely for them to get into production.

TABLE 10

LIKELINESS OF GOING INTO HOG PRODUCTION IF A SUPPLY OF GOOD HELP WERE AVAILABLE

n = 255	VERY LIKELY %	SOME LIKELY %	SOME UNLIKELY %	VERY UNLIKELY %	NOT SURE %
Overall	4 (5)	9 (10)	10 (12)	77 (88)	0 (0)
Likely producers	13 (1)	25 (2)	38 (3)	25 (1)	0 (0)
Former producers	9 (4)	7 (3)	9 (4)	75 (33)	0 (0)

* rows sum horizontally and may not total 100% due to rounding.
Bracketed figures represent actual numbers of respondents.

From the data in Table 10, we conclude that an adequate supply of good hired help would be a modest incentive toward getting into hog production. However, it is clear that other factors are involved as well.

In Table 6, we saw that "obtaining adequate financing" was seen as a very major factor by 19% of non-producers, described as "likely producers". It was awarded a "5" by 21% of all non-producers. These 119 respondents were asked a series of questions about financing. The first asks whether the respondent would require financing to cover the costs of buildings, equipment, stock, or all three things.

TABLE 11

FINANCING REQUIRED FOR BUILDINGS, EQUIPMENT, STOCK OR ALL THREE THINGS

n = 255	BLDGS. %	EQUIP. %	STOCK %	ALL 3 %	can't say %
Overall	5 (6)	1 (1)	10 (12)	69 (82)	15 (18)
Likely producers	11 (1)	0 (0)	22 (2)	56 (5)	11 (1)
Former producers	7 (2)	3 (1)	14 (4)	45 (13)	31 (9)

* Rows sum horizontally and may not total 100% due to rounding.
Bracketed figures represent actual numbers of respondents.

From Table 11, we see that a majority of those who see financing as a very major problem, claim to require financing for all three - buildings, equipment, and stock.

These respondents were then asked if they have tried to obtain financing to cover those costs, within the past year. Only two of the 119 respondents had tried, and both were from commercial financial institutions as opposed to a government agency or both.

However, 15% of these 119 respondents say they would be at least somewhat likely to go into hog production if this type of financing were available at reasonable rates (3% very likely; 12% somewhat likely). This however, is only 17 respondents out of the 119 who suggested financing was a very major factor keeping them out of hog production.

In terms of the likely producer group, four respondents out of the nine suggest if this financing were available they'd be at least somewhat likely to get into production.

Clearly, these data suggest there are more important factors than financing as very major. Recall that in Tables 5 and 6, it ranked seventh among the ten factors overall, and sixth among the likely producer group.

These 17 respondents who suggested they would be at least

These 17 respondents who suggested they would be at least somewhat likely if financing were available, were asked what they would consider a reasonable rate of interest and a reasonable fixed term.

In terms of a reasonable rate of interest, the median response was 6%, with a range from 4% to 8%, and an average of 6.3 per cent.

Responses to the reasonable fixed term ranged from one year to fifteen years. The median response was was 10 years, and the mean 8.1 years.

The two factors keeping farmers out of hog production which related to a lack of available information or personal knowledge about hog production, ranked eighth and tenth among the total non-producer group, and ninth and tenth among the likely producer sub group.

Twenty percent of the total group and only 6% of the likely producers (3 respondents) awarded a "5" to either of these factors. Thus, they do not appear to be major factors at present in keeping hog production levels down.

The 111 respondents overall, who awarded a "5" to a personal lack of knowledge, or a lack of available information, were asked about their own likeliness of taking a training course on hog production and management, if such were available in their area at a minimal cost.

Only 12% of the group suggested they would be at least somewhat likely (5% very likely and 7% somewhat likely).

Two of the three likely producers said they would be very likely to take such a course. Thus, there is some interest in this type of program, although the numbers would certainly be small in relation to the farming population.

2.5 Preferred Type of Hog Production

The final question in the survey which was soley for non-producers, asked respondents which type of hog operation they would prefer, if they did go into production. These response data are illustrated in Table 12.

TABLE 12

PREFERRED TYPE OF HOG OPERATION

	Farrow to Finish %	Farrow to Weanling %	Feeder Operation %	Not Sure %
Overall	23 (130)	18 (101)	37 (205)	22 (121)
Likely producers	23 (11)	19 (9)	46 (22)	12 (6)
Former producers	32 (60)	21 (38)	31 (58)	15 (28)

* Rows sum horizontally and may not total 100% due to rounding.
Bracketed figures represent actual numbers of respondents.

In Table 12, we see that among the likely producer sub-group, "feeder operation" is the choice of almost half, with twice as many responses as "farrow to finish operation".

2.6 Comparative Farming Operations

Respondents were asked five questions about four types of farming operations - which will be the most profitable in the next ten years; which is the safest investment; the riskiest investment; the easiest to sell; the most difficult to sell.

TABLE 13

PERCEPTIONS OF FOUR TYPES OF FARMING OPERATIONS

n = 600	Dairy Cattle %	Hog Production %	Grain Farming %	Beef Cattle %	Can't Say %
"Most profitable over the next ten years"					
- total sample	28	9	20	20	23
- non-producers	27	7	21	21	23
- likely producers	23	13	10	31	23
"The safest investment"					
- total sample	21	10	28	19	22
- non-producers	20	7	30	20	22
- likely producers	23	15	15	29	19
"The riskiest investment"					
- total sample	9	20	40	11	20
- non-producers	9	21	38	11	20
- likely producers	4	4	58	19	15
"The easiest to sell"					
- total sample	12	11	39	22	17
- non-producers	12	9	39	23	17
- likely producers	21	17	21	31	10
"The most difficult to sell"					
- total sample	23	22	31	6	17
- non-producers	23	23	30	6	18
- likely producers	27	13	42	8	10

* Rows sum horizontally and may not total 100% due to rounding.

A decade ago it would have been difficult to believe data like that in Table 13. While there is little concensus on any of the five questions, the notion of grain farming as a profitable and safe investment appears to have been severely tarnished by the past few years of poor crops.

Insofar as livestock is concerned, there appears to be an above average regard for beef production in almost all respects from the group we have referred to as likely producers. This suggests that many of these potential hog producers may also be considering getting into beef cattle.

However, more of the likely producers choose beef production as the riskiest investment. With the importance of price stability to these respondents, hogs may offer some advantage. Nonetheless, it is likely that a major factor in the goal of increasing hog production in the province will be competition from the beef industry.

2.7 Information on Hog Production

Most respondents (75%), including the likely producers, feel there is adequate information on hog production available in their area. Only about 11% of each group contrary in this regard. However, one-quarter of those who say they are "very likely" to get into hog production in the next ten years, suggest there is not enough information available.

Respondents were also asked where they would try to obtain information, advice or assistance concerning hog production. A clear majority (58%) suggested the local Ag Rep - an impressive figure considering this was an open-ended question with no choices. Among the likely producer group, 63% suggested they would contact their Ag Rep.

TABLE 14

WHERE TO GO FOR INFORMATION, ADVICE, OR ASSISTANCE ON HOG PRODUCTION

n = 600	Total Sample %	Non-Producers %	Likely Producers %
Ag Rep	58	58	63
Regional Ag Office/Regina	8	9	2
University/Research Station/Experimental Farm	8	8	19
Other Producers/Friends/Neighbours	8	7	2
**Department of Agriculture	5	5	4
Books & Magazines/Library/Computers	4	4	4
Pork Producers' Marketing Board	2	1	0
Veterinarian/Consultant	1	1	0
Don't know	7	7	6

* Columns may not total 100% due to rounding.
** Department of Agriculture - not specific provincial/federal

The Ag Rep is, by far, the most frequently mentioned source in each of the six Extension Districts, ranging from 71% in the Central East to 47% in both Southern regions. Other figures are 69% in the North West, 59% in the Central West, and 52% in the North East. Other demographic variation on this question is minor.

3. Producers

As mentioned in Section I, 7% of the farmers surveyed in the Random Farm Survey were current hog producers. As this is too small a group to deal with in any great detail, producers are discussed in Part II of this report, which follows. Part II is a random survey of producers from lists supplied by the Pork Producers' Marketing Board.

PART II - HOG PRODUCER SURVEY

1. Sampling

Four hundred and fifty-three (453) random interviews were conducted among Saskatchewan farmers registered with the Pork Producers' Marketing Board. In order to ensure that an adequate number of larger producers were included, sampling was stratified according to four levels of production, based on the PPMB's record of deliveries in 1985.

One hundred and fifty (150) interviews were conducted with registered producers who were inactive in 1985; one hundred and one (101) with active producers of under 300 hogs; one hundred and fifty-one (151) with producers who marketed from 300 to 1000 hogs in 1985; and fifty-one (51) with those who marketed over 1000 hogs in 1985.

Thus, throughout this report, reference will be made to each of those four sub-samples.

Both actual numbers of respondents and percentage figures are shown in various parts of this report. When figures are

shown as "weighted", they are reflective of the entire hog producer population - defined as all those registered with the Pork Producers' Marketing Board.

To accomplish this, respondent data sets from each of the four sub-groups were assigned numerical weights to reflect their actual populations according to the PPMB records supplied.

2. Current Status

Ninety-seven percent (97%) of the inactive sub-group was still inactive at the time of interviewing. Four of the 150 farmers interviewed from this group have now become active producers. Three have returned to hog production, while one is a new producer.

Among the active sub-group which marketed fewer than three hundred hogs in 1985, fifty-seven percent (57%), or 58 of the 101 respondents, are still actively involved in hog production.

Similarly, 88% of the 300-1000 sub-group, and 98% of the over 1000 sub-group, are still in hog production. These data are illustrated in Table 15.

TABLE 15

CURRENT HOG PRODUCERS - ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

	INACTIVE	ACTIVE <300	ACTIVE 300-1000	ACTIVE >1000
Yes (245)	3% (4)	57% (58)	88% (133)	98% (50)
No (208)	97% (146)	43% (43)	12% (18)	2% (1)

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

Of course, all of the producers in the active sample have been involved in hog production at one time or another. However, 45% of the inactive sample (67 respondents) have never been involved in hog production, although they are registered with the PPMB. We are then left with a total of 141 former producers, no longer in the hog business - 79 from the inactive sample and 62 from the active samples.

3. Rationale for Getting Out

Respondents who had gotten out of hog production were given the same multiple choice question as in the Random Farm Survey, as to their major reason for getting out.

Recalling that in the Random Farm Survey, 45% suggested their major reason for quitting hog production was low or unstable hog prices (see Table 1), we now see in this Producer Survey, a similar figure of 44% citing the same two factors.

The data in Table 16 reinforce the conclusion from Table 1 that hog prices, whether perceived as too low or too unstable, is the major reason for producers getting out of the business.

TABLE 16

MAJOR REASON FOR GETTING OUT OF HOG PRODUCTION

n = 141		wtd avg %
Hog prices were too low.	29	
Hog prices were too unstable.	15	44
It took too much work or tied me down.	20	
I don't like pigs.	3	23
Feed prices were too high.	4	
Feed prices were too unstable.	3	7
I couldn't get adequate financing.		2
It was too hard to get good hired help.		1
I didn't know enough about hog production.	1	
A shortage of helpful information about hog production.	0	1
cannot choose		21

* column may not total 100% due to rounding.

In the Random Farm Survey, the second and third items listed above, accounted for 21% of respondents. Here, they total 23%. As stated earlier, these items reflect a dislike for the business based more on life-style than economics, and as such form the second major reason for getting out of hog production.

As in Table 1, items relating to knowledge about hog production are seen as minor.

Table 17 examines these rationale according to the four Production Groups, illustating actual numbers of respondents.

TABLE 17

MAJOR REASON FOR GETTING OUT OF HOG PRODUCTION
ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n=141	INACTIVE		<300		ACTIVE 300-1000		>1000
Hog prices ... low.	27		10		5		
Hog prices ... unstable.	7	34	10	20	2	7	0
... too much work ...	19		7		1		
I don't like pigs.	3	22	1	8	1	2	0
Feed prices ... high.	4		1		1		
Feed prices ... unstable.	0	4	3	4	1	2	0
I couldn't ... financing.		1		1		1	0
... too hard ... help.		1		0		0	0
I didn't know enough ...	2				0		
A shortage of ... info ...	0	2		0	1	1	0
cannot choose		15		10		5	1

* All figures shown represent actual number of respondents.

4. Current Producers

4.1 Years in Business

The 245 farmers sampled who were involved in hog production at the time of interviewing (see Table 15) were asked how many years they had been in the hog business. Table 18 views these response data according to Production Group.

TABLE 18

YEARS IN HOG BUSINESS - ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n=245	WTD.AVG.	INACTIVE	ACTIVE <300	ACTIVE 300-1000	ACTIVE >1000
<2 years	1%	25% (1)	- -	2% (2)	- -
2-5 years	22%	25% (1)	22% (13)	26% (35)	16% (8)
6-9 years	7%	- -	4% (2)	20% (27)	20% (10)
10-14 years	22%	- -	25% (15)	12% (16)	18% (9)
>14 years	47%	50% (2)	48% (28)	40% (53)	46% (23)

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

Data in Table 18 suggest that over two-thirds of current hog producers have been in the business for over ten years.

Only 3 respondents have been in the business for less than two years. One of those in the 300-1000 sub-group had been in hog production before, while the other two are first time hog producers.

4.2 Type of Hog Operation

Current producers were asked which of the three types of hog operations best describes theirs. Response data are shown in Table 19.

TABLE 19

TYPE OF HOG BUSINESS - ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n=245	WTD.AVG.	INACTIVE	ACTIVE <300	ACTIVE 300-1000	ACTIVE >1000
farrow-finish	55%	25% (1)	53% (31)	69% (92)	74% (37)
farrow-weanling	16%	25% (1)	19% (11)	1% (1)	- -
feeder	26%	50% (2)	24% (14)	30% (40)	24% (12)
not sure	3%	- -	3% (2)	- -	2% (1)

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

Data from Table 19 suggest that over half of the current hog producers run farrow to finish operations. Furthermore, it is apparent that this percentage rises with the size of the operation.

4.3 Hog Index

Current producers were asked their average hog index. Table 20 illustrates the response data according to Production Group.

TABLE 20

AVERAGE HOG INDEX - ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n=245	WTD.AVG.	INACTIVE	ACTIVE <300	ACTIVE 300-1000	ACTIVE >1000
<85	17%	25% (1)	21% (12)	1% (1)	- -
85-89	-	- -	- -	- -	- -
90-94	-	- -	- -	1% (1)	- -
95-99	3%	- -	3% (2)	1% (1)	- -
100-104	49%	25% (1)	52% (30)	44% (59)	34% (17)
105-109	26%	50% (2)	17% (10)	53% (70)	62% (31)
110-114	5%	- -	7% (4)	1% (1)	4% (2)

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

It is apparent from the data in Table 20 that larger producers tend to have a higher average hog index than smaller producers.

4.4 Current Management Practices

4.41 Feed Rations

Current producers were asked a series of questions regarding the operation of their hog business. First of all they were asked if they mix their own feed or buy commercially prepared rations. Table 21 shows response data.

TABLE 21

MIX OWN FEED OR BUY COMMERCIAL - ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n=245	WTD.AVG.	INACTIVE	ACTIVE <300	ACTIVE 300-1000	ACTIVE >1000
mix own	74%	50% (2)	79% (46)	56% (75)	52% (26)
some of each	17%	25% (1)	16% (9)	24% (32)	16% (8)
commercial	9%	25% (1)	5% (3)	20% (26)	32% (16)

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

Looking at the three groups in the Active sampling, it is apparent that larger producers are more likely to buy commercially prepared rations.

The 199 producers who mix at least some of their own rations were asked whether the feed grain they use is home-grown or

purchased elsewhere. Most (81% wtd.) of those who mix their own feed, grow their own feed grain, while 13% purchase a portion elsewhere and 6% get all of their feed grain from elsewhere.

Those self-mixers who get at least some of their feed grain from elsewhere, were asked if they find it difficult to purchase adequate feed grain. Three-quarters say it is not much of a problem, while one-quarter says it is difficult.

Thus we calculate approximately 3.5% of the current producers have difficulty purchasing adequate feed grain for ration mixing.

Producers who mix at least some of their own feed were subsequently asked the following question with regard to their feed practices:

"Which of these three do you use ...

- a ration supplement which contains protein, vitamins, and minerals, mixed with feed grain?
- seperate protein sources like soy bean meal, or canola meal, along with a seperate vitamin-mineral pre-mix?
- or feed grains with no supplement?"

TABLE 22

WHICH OF THREE FEED PRACTICES USED - ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

		INACTIVE	ACTIVE		
n=199	WTD.AVG.		<300	300-1000	>1000
supplement	53%	67% (2)	53% (29)	45% (48)	59% (20)
seperate	25%	33% (1)	22% (12)	41% (44)	38% (13)
no supplement	22%	- -	25% (14)	14% (15)	3% (1)

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

As shown by the data in Table 22, large producers appear considerably less likely to use feed grains with no supplement. It also appears from responses to this question that self-mixers in farrow to finish operations are less likely than others to go with no supplement. Eleven percent (11%) of them use straight feed grains, compared to 17% of the farrow to weanling operations and 19% of the feeder operations.

These producers were also asked how often they send in feed samples to the Saskatchewan Feed Test Lab. As shown in Table 23, larger producers are considerably more likely to send in samples.

TABLE 23

HOW OFTEN SAMPLES SENT TO LAB - ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n=199	WTD.AVG.	INACTIVE		ACTIVE <300	ACTIVE 300-1000	ACTIVE >1000
regularly	6%	-	-	2% (1)	23% (25)	35% (12)
once in a while	16%	-	-	13% (7)	32% (34)	38% (13)
very rarely	9%	-	-	7% (4)	16% (17)	15% (5)
never	68%	100%	(3)	76% (42)	27% (29)	6% (2)
can't say	1%	-	-	2% (1)	2% (2)	6% (2)

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

In addition to the data seen in Table 23, responses to this question indicate that farrow to finish operators are far more likely to send in samples of their feed mixtures than those who run farrow to weanling or feeder operations.

4.42 Consultants

Producers were asked a series of questions relating to their contact with specialists or consultants. First they were asked whether a veterinarian visits their farm regularly, or only when a problem occurs. Weighted data indicate that only 17% of current producers receive regular visits.

However, that figure rises according to the size of the operation, from 14% among the under 300 group, to 25% among the 300-1000 group, to 36% among the over 1000 group of producers.

Those who do receive regular visits from the vet were asked to estimate the average number per year. These data are illustrated for each of the active producer groups in Table 24.

TABLE 24

VISITS PER YEAR BY VETERINARIAN - AMONG THOSE RECEIVING REGULAR VISITS ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n=60	<300	300-1000	>1000
1 or 2	25% (2)	3% (1)	- -
3 or 4	13% (1)	42% (14)	11% (2)
5 or 6	- -	12% (4)	11% (2)
7 or 8	13% (1)	9% (3)	- -
9 or 10	13% (1)	6% (2)	6% (1)
11 or 12	38% (3)	24% (8)	56% (10)
>12	- -	3% (1)	17% (3)

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

It is apparent that among those who receive regular visits from a veterinarian, larger producers have a higher frequency of visits.

Producers were also asked about the frequency with which they consult other specialists. They were asked to estimate the number of times per year, if any, they would consult with a nutritionist, and with a financial consultant, other than their bank manager. Response data appear in Table 25.

TABLE 25

CONSULTATIONS PER YEAR - ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n=245	WTD.AVG.	INACTIVE	ACTIVE <300	ACTIVE 300-1000	ACTIVE >1000
NUTRITIONIST					
0 (none)	66%	75% (3)	72% (42)	38% (51)	32% (16)
1 or 2	22%	- -	22% (13)	36% (48)	12% (6)
3 or 4	7%	25% (1)	3% (2)	14% (19)	18% (9)
5 or 6	1%	- -	- -	5% (6)	14% (7)
>6	4%	- -	2% (1)	7% (9)	24% (12)
FINANCIAL					
0 (none)	75%	75% (3)	76% (44)	68% (91)	80% (40)
1 or 2	18%	- -	19% (11)	26% (34)	10% (5)
3 or 4	4%	25% (1)	3% (2)	3% (4)	4% (2)
5 or 6	-	- -	- -	1% (1)	- -
>6	3%	- -	2% (1)	2% (3)	6% (3)

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

Current hog producers were also asked if they have had any slaughter checks done on their market hogs within the past twelve months.

Weighted response data indicate that while 20% are not sure, 23% respond positively and 57% suggest they have not had any slaughter checks in the past year.

Likeliness of having a slaughter check in the past twelve months appears to increase according to operation size, rising from 21% among the under 300 group, to 32% among the 300-1000 group, to 49% among the over 1000 group of producers.

Current hog producers, other than feeder operations, were asked whether they have a regular vaccination program. Weighted response data indicate a positive response of 73%, while 27% suggest they do not have a regular vaccination program. The likeliness of a regular program also appears to rise according to operation size, from 68% among the under 300 group to 86% among the 300-1000 group, to 95% among the over 1000 group.

4.43 Housing

Current producers were asked what percentage of their sows and what percentage of their feeders are housed outside. Table 26 illustrates these response data.

TABLE 26

SOWS AND FEEDERS HOUSED OUTSIDE - ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n=245	WTD.AVG.	INACTIVE		ACTIVE <300		ACTIVE 300-1000		ACTIVE >1000	
SOWS									
0 (none)	36%	75%	(3)	28%	(16)	51%	(68)	90%	(45)
1 - 19%	-	-	-	-	-	2%	(3)	4%	(2)
20 - 39%	3%	25%	(1)	2%	(1)	3%	(4)	2%	(1)
40 - 59%	4%	-	-	5%	(3)	5%	(6)	-	-
60 - 79%	1%	-	-	2%	(1)	3%	(4)	-	-
80 - 99%	3%	-	-	3%	(2)	2%	(2)	-	-
100% (all)	49%	-	-	57%	(33)	29%	(39)	2%	(1)
can't say	4%	-	-	3%	(2)	5%	(7)	2%	(1)
FEEDERS									
0 (none)	53%	100%	(4)	43%	(25)	81%	(108)	92%	(46)
1 - 19%	1%	-	-	-	-	5%	(6)	4%	(2)
20 - 39%	1%	-	-	2%	(1)	4%	(5)	2%	(1)
40 - 59%	3%	-	-	3%	(2)	2%	(2)	-	-
60 - 79%	1%	-	-	2%	(1)	2%	(2)	-	-
80 - 99%	4%	-	-	5%	(3)	1%	(1)	-	-
100% (all)	32%	-	-	40%	(23)	5%	(7)	2%	(1)
can't say	4%	-	-	5%	(3)	2%	(2)	-	-

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

As shown in Table 26, there appears to be a somewhat higher percentage of sows than feeders which are housed outside. The relationship between outside housing and size of operation is evident.

Almost 90% of those who do house some of their sows outside use a bedding for them. About the same percentage use a bedding for their feeders which are housed outside.

4.44 Pigs per Sow

Producers, other than feeder operations, were asked the average number of pigs they market from each sow per year. Response data are shown in Table 27.

TABLE 27

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PIGS PER SOW - ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n=177	WTD.AVG.	INACTIVE	ACTIVE <300	ACTIVE 300-1000	ACTIVE >1000
<13 pigs	50%	100% (2)	55% (24)	26% (24)	32% (12)
13-16 pigs	21%	- -	23% (10)	29% (27)	8% (3)
17-20 pigs	11%	- -	7% (3)	24% (22)	21% (8)
>20 pigs	11%	- -	9% (4)	12% (11)	21% (8)
can't say	7%	- -	7% (3)	10% (9)	18% (7)

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

It is evident that large producers outperform smaller operations in terms of the number of pigs marketed per sow.

4.5 Buildings and Equipment

Current producers, other than feeder operators, were asked how long it has been since certain parts of their facilities were built or last renovated. These data are shown in Table 28 on the following page.

TABLE 28

HOW LONG SINCE BUILT OR RENOVATED - ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n=177	WTD.AVG.	INACTIVE	ACTIVE <300	ACTIVE 300-1000	ACTIVE >1000
FARROWING AREA					
<1 year	14%	50% (1)	14% (6)	14% (13)	21% (8)
1-5 years	32%	50% (1)	27% (12)	54% (50)	42% (16)
6-10 years	21%	- -	23% (10)	17% (16)	13% (5)
11-20 years	16%	- -	18% (8)	9% (8)	18% (7)
>20 years	4%	- -	5% (2)	2% (2)	- -
can't say	13%	- -	14% (6)	4% (4)	5% (2) -
WEANLING AREA					
<1 year	13%	50% (1)	11% (5)	9% (8)	13% (5)
1-5 years	38%	- -	34% (15)	58% (54)	42% (16)
6-10 years	18%	50% (1)	16% (7)	17% (16)	21% (8)
11-20 years	14%	- -	16% (7)	9% (8)	21% (8)
>20 years	5%	- -	7% (3)	3% (3)	- -
can't say	13%	- -	16% (7)	4% (4)	3% (1) -
GROWER AND FINISHER AREA					
<1 year	13%	50% (1)	11% (5)	9% (8)	26% (10)
1-5 years	27%	- -	23% (10)	48% (45)	34% (13)
6-10 years	25%	- -	25% (11)	28% (26)	18% (7)
11-20 years	13%	- -	14% (6)	9% (8)	18% (7)
>20 years	5%	- -	7% (3)	3% (3)	- -
can't say	18%	50% (1)	20% (9)	3% (3)	3% (1) -
DRY SOW AREA					
<1 year	13%	50% (1)	11% (5)	15% (14)	16% (6)
1-5 years	31%	- -	27% (12)	44% (41)	47% (18)
6-10 years	22%	- -	23% (10)	19% (18)	21% (8)
11-20 years	20%	50% (1)	20% (9)	12% (11)	16% (6)
>20 years	4%	- -	5% (2)	3% (3)	- -
can't say	11%	- -	14% (6)	6% (6)	- -

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

These same producers were then asked to estimate the total value of their buildings and equipment for hog production. Not surprisingly, larger operations have considerably more invested in their operations than smaller producers.

TABLE 29

VALUE OF HOG BUILDINGS & EQUIPMENT - ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n=177	WTD.AVG.	INACTIVE	<300	ACTIVE 300-1000	>1000
<$10,000	21%	- -	27% (12)	1% (1)	- -
$10-50,000	23%	- -	27% (12)	12% (11)	- -
$51-100,000	14%	50% (1)	11% (5)	31% (29)	5% (2)
$101-150,000	4%	- -	2% (1)	12% (11)	3% (1)
$151-200,000	2%	- -	- -	13% (12)	- -
$201-250,000	2%	- -	- -	5% (5)	5% (2)
$251-500,000	2%	- -	- -	2% (2)	39% (15)
>$500,000	4%	50% (1)	- -	1% (1)	32% (12)
can't say	29%	- -	32% (14)	23% (21)	16% (6)

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

These producers were then asked how they would rate their present hog facilities in terms of meeting their needs now, and for the next few years. Response data appear in Table 30.

TABLE 30

RATING OF PRESENT FACILITIES - ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n=177	WTD.AVG.	INACTIVE	ACTIVE <300	ACTIVE 300-1000	ACTIVE >1000
excellent	5%	- -	5% (2)	13% (12)	5% (2)
good	54%	50% (1)	52% (23)	66% (61)	63% (24)
only fair	30%	50% (1)	32% (14)	19% (18)	21% (8)
poor	11%	- -	11% (5)	2% (2)	11% (4)

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

As shown in Table 30, a good number of producers do not appear to be satisfied with their existing facilities. Among the over 100 group, almost one-third rate their facilities less than 'good' at meeting their short-term needs.

Producers who awarded less than 'good' to their present facilities were then given a list of seven components of a hog operation and asked if each needed improvement in their operation. Table 31 illustrates their responses.

TABLE 31

FACILITIES NEEDING IMPROVEMENT - ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n=51	<300	300-1000	>1000
grower & feeder area	63% (12)	45% (9)	67% (8)
weanling area	89% (17)	60% (12)	58% (7)
farrowing area	79% (15)	70% (14)	42% (5)
dry sow area	53% (10)	40% (8)	67% (8)
feed handling system	47% (9)	40% (8)	42% (5)
manure handling system	58% (11)	45% (9)	50% (6)
ventilation system	58% (11)	60% (12)	83% (10)

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percent figures represent the portion of each group saying "yes" to each item.

5. Expanding the Operation

5.1 Expansion Intentions

Current producers were asked about their intentions regarding expansion.

"In the next few years, how likely would you say it is that you would expand your hog production - very likely. somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely or very unlikely?"

TABLE 32

LIKELINESS OF EXPANDING PRODUCTION - ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

		INACTIVE	ACTIVE		
n=245	WTD.AVG.		<300	300-1000	>1000
very likely	16%	25% (1)	16% (9)	14% (19)	20% (10)
some likely	33%	25% (1)	36% (21)	22% (29)	22% (11)
some unlikely	19%	50% (2)	19% (11)	14% (18)	8% (4)
very unlikely	31%	- -	29% (17)	42% (56)	42% (21)
not sure	1%	- -	- -	8% (11)	8% (4)

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

Weighted average data suggests that almost half (49%) of current producers are at least somewhat likely to expand production in the next few years.

The most likely to expand appear to be the smaller operations - those which marketed less than 300 hogs in 1985. Keeping in mind that this group also accounts for the vast majority of producers, we determine from the appropriate weighting, that 79% of those who are likely to expand are in the under 300 group.

It also appears from the weighted data that a large number of those likely to expand, reside in the North West District. Similarly, 81% are under 45 years of age, and over two-thirds (69%) derive no greater than 40% of their income from hog production.

TABLE 33

PRODUCERS LIKELY TO EXPAND - WEIGHTED DATA

ACCORDING TO DISTRICT	ONE N.W. %	TWO N.E. %	THREE C.W. %	FOUR C.E. %	FIVE S.W. %	SIX S.E. %
very & somewhat likely (49%)	50	11	14	11	11	3

ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP	INACTIVE %	ACTIVE <300 %	300-1000 %	>1000 %
very & somewhat likely (49%)	5	79	11	5

ACCORDING TO RESPONDENT AGE	<30 %	30-44 %	45-60 %	>60 %
very & somewhat likely (49%)	27	54	14	5

ACCORDING TO % OF INCOME FROM HOG PRODUCTION	<21% %	21-40% %	41-60% %	61-80% %	>80% %
very & somewhat likely (49%)	47	22	8	11	11

Rows sum horizontally and may not total 100% due to rounding.

5.2 Factors Keeping Producers from Expanding

Current producers were asked to rate each of ten factors in terms of their importance in keeping them from expanding their hog production. A scale from one to five, meaning it is a very major factor mitigating against expansion.

TABLE 34

RATINGS OF FACTORS KEEPING PRODUCERS FROM EXPANDING - WEIGHTED DATA ACCORDING TO LIKELINESS OF EXPANDING

n = 245	WTD.AVG.	VERY LIKELY	SOME LIKELY	% OF LIKELY AWARDING "5"
- I like the present size of the operation.	3.44	2.70	3.18	24%
- Hog prices are too unstable.	2.97	3.63	2.95	27%
- It might take too much work or tie me down.	2.65	2.11	2.12	8%
- Obtaining adequate financing.	2.60	2.90	3.36	32%
- The present price of hogs.	2.38	2.85	2.23	16%
- Feed prices are too unstable.	2.36	2.51	2.61	11%
- The present price of feed.	2.13	2.37	1.96	3%
- It is too hard to get good hired help.	2.03	1.71	2.09	8%
- My own lack of knowledge about hog production.	1.64	1.82	1.73	3%
- Available information about hog production.	1.48	1.44	1.32	0%

These data suggest that unstable hog prices and obtaining financing are the two major factors mitigating against

expansion, among producers who say they are likely to expand in the next few years.

Not surprisingly, those most likely to expand appear to be the least satisfied with the current size of their operation.

Altogether, 81 respondents awarded a "5" to hog prices or feed prices being too unstable or unsatisfactory at present levels. This represents almost one-third (33%) of the 245 current producers surveyed. These eighty-one respondents were asked the following question.

"If hog prices and feed prices were stabilized for a long term - say ten years - such that producers were able to make a reasonable return on their investment, how likely would you be to expand your hog production ..."

TABLE 35

LIKELINESS OF EXPANDING HOG PRODUCTION IF HOG & FEED PRICES STABILIZED

n = 81	VERY LIKELY	SOME LIKELY	SOME UNLIKELY	VERY UNLIKELY	NOT SURE
OVERALL	43% (35)	22% (18)	12% (10)	19% (15)	4% (3)
very likely to expand in next few years	77% (10)	8% (1)	- -	15% (2)	- -
somewhat likely to expand in next few years	63% (12)	37% (7)	- -	- -	- -

Bracketed figures represent actual number of respondents.
Percentage rows sum horizontally and may not total 100% due to rounding.

From the Random Farm Survey, it was concluded that stable prices at reasonable levels would have a positive impact on encouraging farmers to get into hog production. Here, we see the same event having a positive incentive upon current producers to expand their operations.

For example, 12 of the 19 producers who earlier said they would be somewhat likely to expand in the next few years, now say they would be very likely under these conditions; four of the 11 who said somewhat unlikely now say very likely, and 7 of the 32 who said earlier they'd be very unlikely now say they would be very likely.

These same 81 respondents who indicated that either unstable or unsatisfactory hog or feed prices were major factors keeping them from exapnding, were then given three barley prices. For each, they were asked what hog price they would need in order to achieve a reasonable return.

TABLE 36

HOG PRICE REQUIRED FOR REASONABLE RETURN

n=81	<55 %	55-65 %	66-75 %	76-85 %	86-95 %	>95 %	n.s. %
barley @ $1.50	-	2	12	20	17	10	38
barley @ $2.00	-	2	2	20	20	22	34
barley @ $2.50	-	-	1	13	13	39	35

Rows sum horizontally and may not total 100% due to rounding.

For a barley price of $1.50 per bushel, the median response was in the 76 to 85 range; for barley at $2.00, the median response was in the 86 to 95 range; and for $2.50 barley the median was more than 95.

'Obtaining adequate financing' was also a major factor keeping current producers from expanding. This factor was awarded a "5" by thirty-five of the 245 current producers surveyed, and by 32% of those likely to expand, as seen in the weighted data in Table 34.

These 35 respondents were asked whether they would require financing to cover the costs of buildings, equipment, stock, or all three things. Table 37 indicates their responses.

TABLE 37

FINANCING REQUIRED FOR BUILDINGS, EQUIPMENT, STOCK OR ALL THREE THINGS

n = 35	BLDGS. %	EQUIP. %	STOCK %	ALL 3 %	can't say %
Overall	6 (2)	3 (1)	9 (3)	66 (23)	17 (6)

* Percentage row sums horizontally & may not total 100% due to rounding.
Bracketed figures represent actual numbers of respondents.

As shown in Table 37, a majority of producers who see financing as a major impediment to expansion, claim they require financing for all three items.

These 35 producers were then asked if they had attempted to obtain financing to cover those costs, within the past year. Seven of them (20%) say they have - one from a financial institution, four from a government agency, and two from both.

The 35 respondents were then asked the following question:

"If this type of financing were available at reasonable rates, how likely would you be to expand your hog production ..."

TABLE 38

LIKELINESS OF EXPANDING HOG PRODUCTION IF REASONABLE FINANCING AVAILABLE

n = 35	VERY LIKELY	SOME LIKELY	SOME UNLIKELY	VERY UNLIKELY	NOT SURE
OVERALL	17% (6)	34% (12)	9% (3)	31% (11)	9% (3)

Bracketed figures represent actual number of respondents.
Percentage row sums horizontally and may not total 100% due to rounding.

As shown in Table 38, over half (51%) of those who earlier suggested financing was a major impediment to expanding, say they would be at least somewhat likely to expand if reasonable financing were available.

This includes 3 of the 16 respondents who earlier indicated they would be 'somewhat likely' to expand in the next few years and now say 'very likely' under these conditions, and one of the 8 who felt it 'very unlikely' he would expand and now says 'very likely'.

This half (18 respondents) was then asked to define a reasonable rate of interest and a reasonable fixed term for such a rate.

The mean rate which resulted was 6.9% per annum with a median response of 6 per cent. These figures are very close to the mean figure of 6.3% and median of 6% from the Random Farm Survey, among respondents who felt financing was a major factor keeping them from getting into hog production.

As a reasonable fixed term, the mean figure resulting was 11.4 years with a median response of ten years, again fairly close to the Random Farm Survey data.

Difficulty in getting good hired help was not seen as a major factor mitigating against expansion in the weighted data from Table 34. Nonetheless, 28 of the 245 current producers awarded this factor a "5" in terms of keeping them from expanding.

Furthermore, 19 of these 29 marketed over 300 hogs in 1985. Fourty percent have hired help on their operation or have in the past.

These respondents were asked the following question:

"Do you think that if training programs on hog production and management were available in your area, at minimal cost, the supply of good hired help would increase significantly?"

TABLE 39

WOULD TRAINING PROGRAMS INCREASE SUPPLY OF HIRED HELP?

n = 28	YES	NO	NOT SURE
OVERALL	50% (14)	43% (12)	7% (2)

Bracketed figures represent actual number of respondents.
Percentage row sums horizontally and may not total 100% due to rounding.

While there is a split of opinion on this matter, it is apparent that such programs would enjoy some support.

These same 28 producers were asked how likely they would be to expand if there were an adequate supply of good hired help for hog producers in their area.

Even though these respondents had suggested the availability of good hired help was a major factor keeping them from expanding, this proposition does not appear to significantly

increase that likeliness. Only one of these twenty-eight producers suggested that availability of good hired help would make him 'very likely' to expand. That producer, in the 1000+ per year group, had earlier indicated he would be 'very unlikely' to expand in the next few years.

Thus, it appears while the availability of good hired help is a major obstacle to the future expansion of about 8% (wtd)) of all current producers, correcting that situation alone, would not likely result in a significant increase in hog production.

In Table 34, we saw that the lowest rated factors, in terms of keeping producers from expanding, related to their own lack of knowledge about hog production, or available information on the subject. Only 12 of the 245 current producers awarded either of these items a "5" on the rating scale.

These 12 producers were asked how likely they would be to take a course on hog production and management if such were available in their area at minimal cost. Three of the 12 said they would be 'very likely'; three said 'somewhat likely'; two said 'somewhat unlikely'; and four 'very unlikely'.

5.3 Freight Rates

Current producers were asked the following question:

"If grain farmers received 10 dollars per acre, and barley freight rates increased by 50 cents per bushel, how likely would you be to increase hog production ..."

TABLE 40

LIKELINESS OF INCREASING PRODUCTION - $10 PER ACRE/ 50 CENTS PER BU.
ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n=245	WTD.AVG.	INACTIVE	<300	ACTIVE 300-1000	>1000
very likely	8%	- -	9% (5)	11% (14)	4% (2)
some likely	15%	- -	17% (10)	6% (8)	12% (6)
some unlikely	16%	50% (2)	17% (10)	9% (12)	6% (3)
very unlikely	40%	25% (1)	36% (21)	62% (82)	32% (16)
not sure	21%	25% (1)	21% (12)	13% (17)	46% (23)

Bracketed figures represent total number of respondents.
Percentage columns may not total 100% due to rounding.

The propostion appears to act as a disincentive to increased hog production for most respondents. Table 41 illustrates how respondents view this proposition in relation to their earlier stated intentions toward expanding.

TABLE 41

LIKELINESS OF INCREASING PRODUCTION - $10 PER ACRE/ 50 CENTS PER BU.
ACCORDING TO EXPANSION INTENTION

n=245	VERY LIKELY	SOME LIKELY	SOME UNLIKELY	VERY UNLIKELY	NOT SURE
INTENTION:					
very likely to expand	21% (8)	21% (8)	5% (2)	23% (9)	31% (12)
some likely to expand	10% (6)	18% (11)	16% (10)	29% (18)	27% (17)
some unlikely to expand	6% (2)	3% (1)	23% (8)	46% (16)	23% (8)
very unlikely to expand	5% (5)	3% (3)	6% (6)	73% (69)	12% (11)
not sure about expansion	- -	7% (1)	7% (1)	53% (8)	33% (5)

Bracketed figures represent actual number of respondents.
Percentage rows sum horizontally and may not total 100% due to rounding.

6. Comparative Farming Operations

Respondents were asked five questions about four types of farming operations - which will be the most profitable in the next ten years; which is the safest investment; the riskiest investment; the easiest to sell; the most difficult to sell. (See Table 42 on following page)

TABLE 42

PERCEPTIONS OF FOUR TYPES OF FARMING OPERATIONS
ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

n = 453	Dairy Cattle %	Hog Production %	Grain Farming %	Beef Cattle %	Can't Say %
"Most profitable over the next ten years"					
weighted average	27	19	14	14	26
Inactive	31	17	16	11	25
<300	24	18	13	19	27
300-1000	30	30	10	3	26
>1000	33	39	10	0	18
"The safest investment"					
weighted average	24	18	24	13	22
Inactive	25	13	23	15	23
<300	22	19	26	13	21
300-1000	24	33	15	5	24
>1000	27	43	6	6	18
"The riskiest investment"					
weighted average	9	20	38	16	18
Inactive	11	21	37	11	20
<300	7	20	38	21	15
300-1000	9	10	44	10	27
>1000	8	16	47	14	16
"The easiest to sell"					
weighted average	12	13	40	18	16
Inactive	13	14	39	20	14
<300	12	12	41	19	17
300-1000	10	17	38	8	28
>1000	8	18	51	2	22
"The most difficult to sell"					
weighted average	25	24	27	6	17
Inactive	21	27	30	7	15
<300	29	22	26	6	18
300-1000	20	27	21	8	25
>1000	22	25	24	10	20

* Rows sum horizontally and may not total 100% due to rounding.

As with the Random Farm Survey, there appears to be little concensus on any of the five questions. It is apparent, however, that larger producers tend more than others to see hog production as the most profitable over the next ten years, and as the safest investment.

Also, as in the Random Farm Survey, more see grain farming than any other type of operation, as the riskiest investment, but also the easiest to sell.

As for the most difficult operation to sell, the closest thing to a concensus is that it is not a beef cattle operation.

7. Information on Hog Production

Most respondents (84% wtd) feel there is adequate information on hog production available in their area. among each of the four production groups this figure is over 80 percent. Only 10% feel contrary, while the balance is unable to say.

Respondents were then asked where they would try to obtain information, advice, or assistance concerning hog production. Fourty-six percent suggested they would contact their Ag Rep - a lesser figure than the 58% in the Random Farm Survey, but still an impressive number for an open-ended question. Furthermore an additional 10% said they would got to the local or regional Ag office, or to Regina.

TABLE 43

WHERE TO GO FOR INFORMATION, ADVICE, OR ASSISTANCE ON HOG PRODUCTION ACCORDING TO PRODUCTION GROUP

		INACTIVE	ACTIVE		
n = 453	WTD.AVG. %	%	<300 %	300-1000 %	>1000 %
Ag Rep	46	49	47	31	18
Univ/ Research Stat/ Exp Farm	14	7	21	19	14
Regional Ag Office/ Regina	10	11	8	15	10
Other Producers/ Friends/ etc	9	12	6	6	16
Pork Prod Marketing Board	8	9	7	9	8
Veterinarian/ Consultant	4	2	4	11	24
**Department of Agric	3	4	2	6	6
Books/ Mags/ Computers	3	3	4	0	4
Ag Canada	0	1	0	1	0
Don't know	3	3	2	5	2

* Columns may not total 100% due to rounding.
** Department of Agriculture - not specific provincial/federal

As shown in Table 43, larger producers tend more than others to look for hog production information from veterinarians or other consultants, or to other producers or friends. Fewer of the larger producers say they would contact their Ag Rep.

**** HOG SURVEY ****

FINAL DRAFT - Aug. 1, 198.
Producers & Non-Producers

Hello, my name is ..... intro .....
.....
.....

1. Are you currently involved in hog production?

__yes __no (go to 1c)

1a) For how many years have you been in hog production?

__<2 __2-5 __6-9 __10-14 __>14
/ . . . . go to Q.10 . . . . . /

1b) Had you ever been in hog production before?

__yes __no
/ . . . go to Q.10 . . . . /

1c) Have you ever been involved in hog production on your farm?

__yes (go to 1e) __no

1d) Have you or your family had any experience at all with hog production?

__yes (go to Q.2) __no (go to Q.2)

1e) How many years has it been since you were in hog production? Was it less than 3 years ago, three to five years ago, five to ten years ago, or more than ten years ago?

__<3 __3-5 __5-10 __>10 __ref/dk
(go to 1g)

1f) For how many years were you in hog production?

__<1 __1-3 __4-6 __>6

1g) Which ONE of these was your MAJOR reason for getting out of hog production ... (order randomized)

__ I couldn't get adequate financing.
__ Hog prices were too low.
__ Feed prices were too high.
__ I didn't know enough about hog production.
__ It took too much work or tied me down.
__ Hog prices were too unstable.
__ A shortage of helpful information about hog production.
__ Feed prices were too unstable.
__ I don't like pigs.
__ It was too hard to get good hired help.

__can't say/ref/other

2. Are you personally aware of any successful hog operations in your ar. ?

__yes __no __not sure

2a) Are you personally aware of any failed hog operations in your area?

__yes __no __not sure

2b) Are you aware of anyone in your area who is planning to start into hog production?

__yes __no __not sure

2c) Are you aware of anyone in your area who is planning to get out of hog production?

__yes __no __not sure

3. Generally speaking, do you think hog production will be a viable business to be involved in, in the next ten years or so?

__yes __no __not sure

3a) Do you have facilities on your farm, which could be used for hog production?

__yes __no __not sure

4. In the next few years, how likely would you say it is that you would become involved in hog production - very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, o very unlikely?

__very likely (go to 4b)
__somewhat likely (go to 4b)
__somewhat unlikely
__very unlikely
__ can't say

4a) Of course, there may be a number of reasons why you'd be unlikely to get into hog production. I'll list a few reasons some people might have, and ask you to rate each of them as they might apply to you. Let's say a ONE means that factor is NOT AT ALL important in keeping you out of hog production, all the way up to a FIVE, meaning it is a VERY MAJOR factor keeping you out of hog production. First of all ...

- Obtaining adequate financing.	1	2	3	4	5
- The present price of hogs.	1	2	3	4	5
- The present price of feed.	1	2	3	4	5
- Available information about hog production.	1	2	3	4	5
- Hog prices are too unstable.	1	2	3	4	5
- Feed prices are too unstable.	1	2	3	4	5
- It might take too much work or tie me down.	1	2	3	4	5
- I don't like pigs.	1	2	3	4	5
- My own lack of knowledge about hog production.	1	2	3	4	5
- It is too hard to get good hired help.	1	2	3	4	5

4b) Of course, there may be a number of reasons why you haven't yet gone into hog production. I'll list a few reasons some people might have, and ask you to rate each of them as they might apply to you. Let's say a ONE means that factor is NOT AT ALL important in keeping you out of hog production, all the way up to a FIVE, meaning it is a VERY MAJOR factor keeping you out of hog production. First of all ...

- Obtaining adequate financing.	1	2	3	4	5
- The present price of hogs.	1	2	3	4	5
- The present price of feed.	1	2	3	4	5
- Availabile information about hog production.	1	2	3	4	5
- Hog prices are too unstable.	1	2	3	4	5
- Feed prices are too unstable.	1	2	3	4	5
- It might take too much work or tie me down.	1	2	3	4	5
- I don't like pigs.	1	2	3	4	5
- My own lack of knowledge about hog production.	1	2	3	4	5
- It is too hard to get good hired help.	1	2	3	4	5

5. * only for those who gave a "5" to financing in Q.4a) or 4b) *

You indicated that obtaining adequate financing was a major factor keeping you out of hog production. Would you require financing to cover the costs of buildings, equipment, stock, or all three things?

__buildings __equipment __stock __all three __dk/ref/etc.

5a) Within the past year, have you attempted to obtain financing to cover those costs?

__yes __no (go to Q.5c) __dk/ref/etc. (go to Q.5c)

5b) Was that from a bank or credit union, or was it from a government agency ... or both?

__bank/credit union __gov't __both __dk/ref/etc.

5c) If this type of financing were available at reasonable rates, how likely would you be to go into hog production - very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

__very likely
__somewhat likely
__somewhat unlikely (go to Q.6)
__very unlikely (go to Q.6)
__can't say (go to Q.6)

5d) What would you consider a reasonable interest rate?

_____ % per year

5e) And what would consider a reasonable fixed term for such a rate of financing?

_____ years

6. only for those who gave a "5" to hog prices or feed prices being too low or too unstable in Q.4a) or 4b)

If hog prices and feed prices were stabilized for a long term - say ten years - such that producers were able to make a reasonable return on their investment, how likely would you be to go into hog production - very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

__very likely
__somewhat likely
__somewhat unlikely
__very unlikely
__can't say

6a) For the following barley prices, what hog price do you think you would need in order to achieve a reasonable return on investment ...

i) if barley cost $1.50 per bushel?

__<55 __55-65 __66-75 __76-85 __86-95 __>95 __can't say

ii) if barley cost $2.00 per bushel?

__<55 __55-65 __66-75 __76-85 __86-95 __>95 __can't say

iii) if barley cost $2.00 per bushel?

__<55 __55-65 __66-75 __76-85 __86-95 __>95 __can't say

7. only for those who gave a "5" to available information or lack of knowledge in Q.4a) or 4b)

If training programs on hog production and management were available in your area, at a minimal cost, how likely would you be to take such a course - very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

__very likely
__somewhat likely
__somewhat unlikely
__very unlikely
__can't say

8. only for those who gave a "5" to hired help in Q.4a) or 4b)
Do you think that if training programs on hog production and management were available in your area, at a minimal cost, the supply of good hired help would increase significantly?

__yes __no __not sure

8a) If there were an adequate supply of good hired help for hog producers in your area, how likely would you be to go into hog production - very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

__very likely
__somewhat likely
__somewhat unlikely
__very unlikely
__can't say

9. If you did go into hog production, which of these types of operations do you think you would prefer...(3 choices read)

__ a farrow to finish operation? . . . (go to Q.26)
__ a farrow to weanling operation? . . . (go to Q.26)
__ a feeder operation? . . . (go to Q.26)
__ not sure (go to Q.26)

**** QUESTIONS 10 TO 25 ARE FOR PRODUCERS ONLY ****

10. Which of these three types of hog operations best describes yours ...

__ a farrow to finish operation?
__ a farrow to weanling operation?
__ a feeder operation? (go to Q.10b)
__ other

10a) Approximately how many weanling pigs did you market last year?

_____ #

10b) Approximately how many finished hogs did you market last year?

_____ #

10c) What is your average hog index?

_____ # (abs. rng. 80-114)

11. Do you mix your own feed or buy commercially prepared rations?

__ mix own __ commercial rations (go to Q.12) __ some of each

11a) Is the feed-grain you use home-grown or purchased elsewhere?

__ home grown (go to Q.11c) __ purchased elsewhere __ some of each

11b) Do you find it difficult to purchase adequate feed grains or is that not much of a problem for you?

__difficult __not much problem

11c) Which of these three do you use...

__ a ration supplement which contains protein, vitamins, and minerals, mixed with feed-grain.

__ seperate protein sources like soy bean meal, or canola meal, along with a seperate vitamin-mineral pre-mix?

__ or feed grains with no supplement.

11d) Do you send in feed samples to the Saskatchewan Feed Test Lab regularly, once in a while, very rarely, or never?

__regularly __once in a while __very rarely __never

12. Does a veterinarian visit your farm regularly, or only when a problem occurs?

__regularly __only when problem (go to Q.12b)

12a) What would be the vet's average number of visits per year?

__1or2 __3or4 __5or6 __7or8 __8or9 __10or11 __12or more

12b) About how many times per year, if any, would you consult with a nutritionist?

__none __1or2 __3or4 __5or6 __>6

12c) And about how many times per year, if any, would you consult with a financial consultant other than the bank manager?

__none __1or2 __3or4 __5or6 __>6

13. Within the past twelve months, have you had any slaughter checks done on your market hogs?

__yes __no __not sure

14. About what percentage of your SOWS are housed outside?

__none __1-19% __20-39% __40-59% __60-79% __80-99% __All (go to 14b)

14a) Do you use bedding for those or not?

__yes __no

14b) And about what percentage of your FEEDERS are housed outside?

__none __1-19% __20-39% __40-59% __60-79% __80-99% __All (go to Q.15)

14c) Do you use bedding for those?

__yes __no

15. (Q.15 to 18 are not asked to operations which are 'feeder only')

Do you have a regular vaccination program?

__yes __no

6. What would be the average number of pigs you market from each sow per year? (choices not read)

__<13 __13-16 __17-20 __>20 __can't say

16a) How many sows do you currently have?

_____ #

16b) And how many boars?

_____ #

16c) In the past twelve months, how many sows did you cull?

_____ #

17. How many years has it been since your farrowing area was built or last renovated?

__<1yr __1-5 yrs __6-10 yrs __11-20 yrs __>20 yrs __not sure

17a) And how many years since your weanling area was built or renovated?

__<1yr __1-5 yrs __6-10 yrs __11-20 yrs __>20 yrs __not sure

17b) And how many years since your grower & finisher area was built or renovated?

__<1yr __1-5 yrs __6-10 yrs __11-20 yrs __>20 yrs __not sure

17c) How many years ago was your dry sow area built or last renovated?

__<1yr __1-5 yrs __6-10 yrs __11-20 yrs __>20 yrs __not sure

17d) Approximately what would the total value be of your buildings and equipment for hog production?

__<$10,000 __10-$50,000 __51-$100,000 __101-$150,000

__151-$200,000 __201-$250,000 __251-$500,000 __>$500,000

18. In terms of meeting your needs now, and for the next few years, would you say your present hog facilities are excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

__excellent __good __only fair __poor __not sure

(... (go to Q. 19 ...)

18a) Which of these areas would you say needs improvement ...

the grower and feeder area?	__yes	__no	__not sure
the weanling area?	__yes	__no	__not sure
the farrowing area?	__yes	__no	__not sure
the dry sow area?	__yes	__no	__not sure
the feed handling system?	__yes	__no	__not sure
the manure handling system?	__yes	__no	__not sure
the ventilation system?	__yes	__no	__not sure

19. In the next few years, how likely would you say it is that you would expand your hog production - very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

__very likely (go to Q.19b) __somewhat unlikely
__somewhat likely (go to Q.19b) __very unlikely
__ can't say

19a) Of course, there may be a number of reasons why you'd be unlikely to expand your hog production. I'll list a few reasons some people might have, and ask you to rate each of them as they might apply to you. Let's say a ONE means that factor is NOT AT ALL important in keeping you from expanding, all the way up to a FIVE, meaning it is a VERY MAJOR factor keeping you from expanding your hog production. First of all ...

- Obtaining adequate financing.	1	2	3	4	5
- The present price of hogs.	1	2	3	4	5
- The present price of feed.	1	2	3	4	5
- Available information about hog production.	1	2	3	4	5
- Hog prices are too unstable.	1	2	3	4	5
- Feed prices are too unstable.	1	2	3	4	5
- It might take too much work or tie me down.	1	2	3	4	5
- I like the present size of the operation.	1	2	3	4	5
- My own lack of knowledge about hog production.	1	2	3	4	5
- It is too hard to get good hired help.	1	2	3	4	5

19b) Of course, there may be a number of reasons why you haven't yet expanded your hog production. I'll list a few reasons some people might have, and ask you to rate each of them as they might apply to you. Let's say a ONE means that factor is NOT AT ALL important in keeping you from expanding, all the way up to a FIVE, meaning it is a VERY MAJOR factor keeping you from expanding you hog production. First of all ... .

- Obtaining adequate financing.	1	2	3	4	5
- The present price of hogs.	1	2	3	4	5
- The present price of feed.	1	2	3	4	5
- Available information about hog production.	1	2	3	4	5
- Hog prices are too unstable.	1	2	3	4	5
- Feed prices are too unstable.	1	2	3	4	5
- It might take too much work or tie me down.	1	2	3	4	5
- I like the present size of the operation.	1	2	3	4	5
- My own lack of knowledge about hog production.	1	2	3	4	5
- It is too hard to get good hired help.	1	2	3	4	5

20. only for those who gave a "5" to financing in Q.19a) or 19b)

You indicated that obtaining adequate financing was a major factor keeping you from expanding your hog production. Would you require financing to cover the costs of buildings, equipment, stock, or all three things?

__buildings __equipment __stock __all three __dk/ref/etc.

20a) Within the past year, have you attempted to obtain financing to cover those costs?

__yes __no (go to Q.20c) __dk/ref/etc. (go to Q.20c)

20b) Was that from a bank or credit union, or was it from a government agency ... or both?

__bank/credit union __gov't __both __dk/ref/etc.

20c) If this type of financing were available at reasonable rates, how likely would you be to expand your hog production - very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

__very likely
__somewhat likely
__somewhat unlikely (go to Q.21)
__very unlikely (go to Q.21)
__can't say (go to Q.21)

20d) What would you consider a reasonable interest rate?

_____ % per year

20e) And what would consider a reasonable fixed term for such a rate of financing?

_____ years

21. only for those who gave a "5" to hog prices or feed prices being too low or too unstable in Q.19a) or 19b)

If hog prices and feed prices were stabilized for a long term - say ten years - such that producers were able to make a reasonable return on their investment, how likely would you be to expand your hog production - very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

__very likely
__somewhat likely
__somewhat unlikely
__very unlikely
__can't say

21a) For the following barley prices, what hog price do you think you would need in order to achieve a reasonable return on investment ...

i) if barley cost $1.50 per bushel?

__<$5 __$5-6$ __66-7$ __76-8$ __86-9$ __>9$ __can't say

ii) if barley cost $2.00 per bushel?

__<$5 __$5-6$ __66-7$ __76-8$ __86-9$ __>9$ __can't say

iii) if barley cost $2.50 per bushel?

__<$5 __$5-6$ __66-7$ __76-8$ __86-9$ __>9$ __can't say

22. only for those who gave a "5" to available information or lack of knowledge in Q.19a) or 19b)

If training programs on hog production and management were available in your area, at a minimal cost, how likely would you be to take such a course - very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

__very likely
__somewhat likely
__somewhat unlikely
__very unlikely
__can't say

23. only for those who gave a "5" to hired help in Q.19a) or 19b)
Do you think that if training programs on hog production and management were available in your area, at a minimal cost, the supply of good hired help would increase significantly?

__yes __no __not sure

23a) Do you, or have you ever, employed hired help in your hog operation?

__yes __no

23b) If there were an adequate supply of good hired help for hog producers in your area, how likely would you be to expand your hog production - very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

__very likely
__somewhat likely
__somewhat unlikely
__very unlikely
__can't say

24. If grain farmers received 10 dollars per acre, and barley freight rates increased by 50 cents per bushel, how likey would you be to increase hog production ... very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

__very likely
__somewhat likely
__somewhat unlikely
__very unlikely
__can't say

25. About what percentage of you total farm income is derived from hog production... Would it be ... (choices read)

__20% or less __20 to 40% __41 to 60% __61 to 80% __over 80%

26. From what you may know or have heard, which of these types of farming operations would you say will be the most profitable, over the next ten years?

__ dairy cattle
__ hog production
__ grain farming
__ beef production
__ can't say

26a) And which of the four would you say is the safest investment?

__ dairy cattle
__ hog production
__ grain farming
__ beef production
__ can't say

26b) And the riskiest investment?

__ dairy cattle
__ hog production
__ grain farming
__ beef production
__ can't say

26c) Which type of business would be the easiest to sell?

__ dairy cattle
__ hog production
__ grain farming
__ beef production
__ can't say

26d) The most difficult to sell?

__ dairy cattle
__ hog production
__ grain farming
__ beef production
__ can't say

27. Would you say there is adequate information on hog production available in your area?

__yes __no

27a) If you were looking for information, advice, or assistance concerning hog production, where do you think you would try to obtain it?

_____

28. And finally, for statistical purposes, could you please tell me which of these age groups you fall into ...

__under 30 __31 to 44 __45 to 60 __over 60 __ref

29. Which of these is the highest level of education you have completed ...

__ elementary school?
__ high school?
__ some technical school?
__ technical school diploma?
__ some university?
__ university degree?

30. Would you total land base, including rented land, be ...

__<640 acres __640-1280 acres __1281-1920 acres

__1921-2560 acres __>2560 acres

31. At the present time, about what percentage would your total debt be, compared to your assets? Would your debt be ...

__less than 25% of assets?
__25 to 50% of assets?
__51 to 75% of assets?
__over 75% of assets?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS SURVEY.

32. ZONE (ag ext. district) - FOR RANDOM FARM SAMPLE ONLY

__1 __2 __3 __4 __5 __6